

SECRET

DURCANSKY

705/1150

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMISSIONER
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

SUBJECT: Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY

1. Reference is made to a telephone query made by Mr. Pales on 15 August 1939 with regard to Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, former Slovak Foreign Minister and now leader of the Slovak Liberation Committee, rival Slovak separatist organization to General SIDOR's Slovak National Council who is at present reported to be living in Moscow Aires.

2. The following statements concerning Dr. DURCANSKY (some from "Who's Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe, Excluding France", published in May 1944):

→ Slovak politician. Born circa 1904. Son of Senator Jozef DURCANSKY, representative of the Slovak People's (NARODNA) Party in the Czechoslovak Senate. As a student was a fervent partisan of Slovak-Hungarian Union. Started his career as unknown lawyer. Studied in Paris and Berlin, where he made intimate contacts with Hitler Youth leaders. On his return to Czechoslovakia, he founded the monthly "Narod" with Rudi aid. First came into prominence as Minister of Justice in the Slovak autonomous government founded October 1938 (after Munich). Later was obliged by Czechoslovak opposition to flee to Vienna, where he violently attacked the Czechoslovak Republic. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and became Minister of Interior in the first independent Slovak Government, 14 March 1939. Suddenly dismissed in September 1941; reported to be on demand of the Germans who were playing off the groups of TUKA (Dr. Vajtech -- advocate of Czechoslovak-Hungarian union) and MACH (Same -- advocate of Slovak-Croat-Banatian affiliation) against that of DURCANSKY. Article in "Slovak", March 1943, accused the Slovaks of limiting anti-Czech feeling.

3. According to a report dated 7 October 1944, the source of which was Dr. Vojtech KUBICKI, now chairman of the National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia, an emigre political group in the United States (note: presumably an affiliate of DURCANSKY's own organization) Dr. DURCANSKY was formerly a professor of International law at the University of Bratislava and was Slovak Foreign Minister in 1939, in which capacity he signed a treaty of friendship with Hitler under duress.

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Section 3(b)

Sources

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According to GRADU VII, he was dismissed by the pro-Hitler government in Slovakia because of his desire to establish contacts with England and France. According to a report dated October 1944 he was formerly in the HUNGARIAN Guard.

4. Information was received in January 1946 that Dr. DUNCANSKY had arrived in Rome with his wife and two children and that he had gone into hiding. In April 1947 the Czechoslovak Government under President BENEŠ requested the extradition of Dr. DUNCANSKY from Italy for trial in Czechoslovakia as a war criminal. The request was refused since the Italo-Czech treaty of 1921 was not applicable to political criminals. In August 1947 (note: pre-Communist coup) Major Josef DUPAK, then First Secretary at the Czechoslovak Legation in Rome and a representative of the Ministry of Interior, was assigned the mission of locating Dr. DUNCANSKY and kidnapping him for the Czechoslovak Government. This attempt was unsuccessful, however.

5. While in Rome Dr. DUNCANSKY was reported to be cooperating with Hungarians in the framework of the MYTHOLOGICAL Movement, a European Federalist organization composed of various dissident elements -- Poles, Hungarians, Slovenes, Slovaks, etc., which is rightist and nationalistic in character. Papa connections?

6. According to a report dated 25 March 1947, DUNCANSKY left Rome in December 1946 and was in hiding near Rome in Frascati where he is alleged to have stayed at the Jesuit Monastery and in nearby Grotteferata where he lived at the College for Oriental Priests. In March 1946 he returned to Rome and was reported to be staying in the Vatican as a guest of a postal employee of the Vatican mail service. A report dated June 1947 from a source whose reliability is unknown stated that he was making regular radio broadcasts to Slovakia from either Austria or Italy. A Prague newspaper item originating in Vienna on 18 June 1947 stated that DUNCANSKY's news broadcasts had gone off the air now that he was living in Salzburg as a privileged DP and that the broadcasts originated somewhere in Southern Austria.

7. After the abortive mission to kidnap him mentioned in paragraph 4 above, he is alleged to have escaped to Spain. The American Embassy in Prague stated in a cable dated 8 November 1947 that a Communist official in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Embassy that DUNCANSKY had left Italy for Argentina in October 1947. A State Department cable dated 22 December 1947 was dispatched to all stations to submit to the Department any application for visa facilities which might be made by DUNCANSKY, as well as whether any visa facilities had already been issued to him by a Consulate. A request for a visa was submitted to the American Consulate General in Naples on 13 January 1948 by DUNCANSKY.

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8. A report dated 28 December 1948 stated that IMREKASNY had arrived in Argentina (date not given) under the name Manolo VILKEL. It was further reported that he had, under this name, invested in ALCALDES ARGENTINOS, S. A., a factory in Buenos Aires for the production of morphine according to a process discovered by one Nicolas BRYNER.

9. A FBI report dated 24 March 1948 stated that the Czechoslovak Government had that day filed a formal petition via its diplomatic offices for the extradition from Argentina of IMREKASNY. The Argentine Government refused the Czechoslovak Government's request to extradite him. In April 1948 it was reported that he was interested in sending to the United States and that he was then in the process of attempting to find some person who would recommend him for a U.S. visa or who would make arrangements for him at the American Consulate in Buenos Aires. It may have been for this reason that sometime later, August 1948, he offered to turn over information to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. He at this time, claimed that he wished to turn over information about his organization, Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, had been suspended by the Argentine police.

10. Concerning the Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, a report dated 11 July 1949 states that one Fabian Margilio FULJERO, an Argentine priest and National Deputy, together with Ernest REBERCH, former Belgian Minister and IMREKASNY, initiated the formation of this committee about a year previously with the support and backing of the Wladislaw Alexander Wladyslaw, Bulgarian follower, Miroslav ARMENSKI, Wladimir STANISLAWSKI, Leon NEMETSKY, followers of Petain and Italian Fascist groups. The nature is anti-imperialist, anti-Communist, and anti-colonial.

11. A report dated 2 December 1948 stated that IMREKASNY had been effective in penetrating Slovak Communist Groups in Buenos Aires and that he had allegedly reported the names of such individuals to the Argentine police. In September 1948 there was an unconfirmed report that the Slovak Communists have helped the Slovak separatists in dispatching clandestinely a courier from Czechoslovakia with the mission of contacting IMREKASNY, now living in Buenos Aires and recognized head of the Slovak separatists. According to this report the courier was to represent both the separatists and the Communists in making a common plan of action.

12. A report was received in July 1949 from a fairly reliable source that Fascist inmates of the Leopoldo State Prison in Slovakia were planning their hopes for eventual release on the influence of IMREKASNY.

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13. In June 1948 it was reported that a meeting of delegates from various refugee camps in Germany of DUNCANSKY followers was held in Frankfurt on 12 June 1948. An illegal emigration route to South America, via France and Spain, is said to have been an item of discussion. The group's Munich address was given as Lantien Str. 11, 5th Floor, telephone 40340.

14. A report from a source of unknown reliability dated 11 July 1949 stated that DUNCANSKY had lost considerable prestige, especially among the more recent Slovak arrivals in Argentina, to Dr. Karel SIMEK, the subject of recent controversial discussion within Czech and Slovak groups in the United States. One of the reasons for this loss of prestige is said to be DUNCANSKY's outward attachment toward Nazi elements and former followers. He is further stated by the source of this report to be violently anti-Semitic and anti-U.S.

15. According to July 1950 issues of the "New York Daily Mirror", Reverend Rudolf DILON is DUNCANSKY's representative in the United States. The 29 July 1950 issue reports that simultaneous lecture tours by DILON and Dr. SIMEK has led to open bickering on pages of the Slovak separatist press, but that the fight has been somewhat dampened by Walter Winchell's campaign against both separatist leaders.

16. A source of unknown reliability has stated that it is his opinion that the retention of General Milan FIALSKI on Ellis Island for three months in 1949 on charges of being a Communist might be the work of the DUNCANSKY separatist group. It will be recalled that General FIALSKI was cleared of these charges and admitted to the United States on 4 November 1949, following an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

17. It is recommended that the Department of State and Army, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, be queried concerning Dr. DUNCANSKY.

FOR THE DIRECTOR : CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

[Signature]
Assistant Director

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7 Sept. 50

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